

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 NIC-01

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R 120934Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4418
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC
CINCPACREPPHIL
DEPT OF DEFENSE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEFENSE ALSO FOR DIA

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, RP, CH

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT REITERATES CHARGES OF OPPOSITION PLOTTING

REF: (A) MANILA 9981, OCT 72 (NOTAL)

(B) MANILA 11916, DEC 72 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN PRESS INTERVIEW WITH FREE- LANCE
AMERICAN JOURNALIST BETH DAY, EXCERPTS OF WHICH REPORTED
APRIL 12 IN MANILA PRESS, PRESIDENT MARCOS REITERATED
CHARGES OF PLOTS BY CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION ELEMENTS
WORKING WITH COMMUNISTS TO ASSASSINATE HIM AND
OVERTHROW GOVT. PRESIDENT NAMED WWII GUERRILLA
LEADER "TERRY" ADEVOSO AS CENTRAL FIGURE IN PLOTTING
BY RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS SINCE 1969, AND POINTEDLY
IDENTIFIED ADEVOSO WITH OPPOSITION LIBERAL PARTY.
SINCE BETH DAY ALSO COMMISSIONED BY GOP TO WRITE
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BOOK ON " NEW PHILIPPINES" PRESUMPTION IS THAT PRESIDENT' S CHARGES WERE PERHAPS PLANTED TO SERVE PARTICULAR POLITICAL ENDS, ALTHOUGH WHAT THERE MAY BE, OTHER THAN WARNINGS TO PARTICULAR OPPOSITION ELEMENTS, IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. END SUMMARY

1. IN NEW YORK DATELINED ARTICLES, ATTRIBUTED TO FREE- LANCE JOURNALIST BETH DAY, AND APPEARING IN APRIL 12 PRESS HERE, PRESIDENT MARCOS REEMPHASIZED SERIOUSNESS OF ASSASSINATION PLOTS AGAINST HIMSELF AND GOVT, ATTRIBUTING THESE TO HIS POLITICAL OPPONENTS, WHOM HE ALSO CHARGED WITH COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNISTS.

2. HIGH POINTS OF PRESS ACCOUNT REPORTED HERE ARE: (A) THAT, AFTER MARCOS REELECTION IN 1969, A GROUP LARGELY COMPOSED OF RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS, BACKED BY SEVERAL KEY MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION LIBERAL PARTY (LP) CONSPIRED TO KILL THE PRESIDENT AND OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT. ELEUTARIO (TERRY) ADEVOSO IS IDENTIFIED AS HEADING THIS GROUP AND AS FORMER LP OPERATIONS CHIEF; (B) THAT SEVEN ATTEMPTS WERE MADE ON MARCOS' LIFE IN THE LAST (SIC) TEN MONTHS OF 1972 ALONE AND THAT DISCOVERY OF ASSASSINATION PLOT RESULTED IN PROCLAMATION OF MARTIAL LAW; (C) THAT THE CONSPIRACY WAS FINANCED AND DIRECTED BY MEMBERS OF SOME OF THE WEALTHIEST AND MOST POWERFUL FILIPINO FAMILIES, AND THAT KEY LP MEMBERS, WEALTHY BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIALISTS HIRED GUNMEN, INCLUDING ALIEN ADVENTURERS, TO ASSASSINATE MARCOS; (D) SOME OF THESE CONSPIRATORS ARE NOW HIDING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, SOME ARE IN GOP CUSTODY; (E) CONSPIRATORIAL GROUP MAINTAINED LIAISON WITH THE MAOIST NEW PEOPLE' S ARMY AND FOMENTED VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND STRIKES BY LEFTIST STUDENT, PEASANT, AND LABOR GROUPS; AND (F) LAST JULY 3,000 M-14 AMERICAN RIFLES " PRESUMABLY FROM MAINLAND CHINA" HAD BEEN LANDED IN COMMUNIST RURAL SANCTUARY OF ISABELA PROVINCE.

3. REPORTEDLY ANSWERING QUESTIONS, PRESIDENT MARCOS SAID THERE WAS NOTHING TO INDICATE US CIA HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY OF THESE REPORTED ACTIVITIES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECLARED THERE IS NO PRESENT DANGER OF A MILITARY COUP.

HE ALSO DECLARED HE HAD NO INTENTION OF SETTING UP
DICTATORSHIP.

4. COMMENT: PRESIDENT' S CHARGES MUST BE PRESUMED
DELIBERATE AND PRE- PLANNED MOVE ON HIS PART. MISS DAY,
WHOSE FULL ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW IS REPORTEDLY TO APPEAR
IN APRIL 24 ISSUE OF WORLD MAGAZINE, HAS BEEN ON CLOSE
TERMS WITH GOP OFFICIALS FOR SOME MONTHS. SHE IS OFTEN
SEEN WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO AND IS REPORTEDLY
COMMISSIONED TO WRITE BOOK ON RESTRUCTURING OF
PHILIPPINE SOCIETY, TENTATIVELY ENTITLED " THE NEW
PHILIPPINES."

5. TO EXTENT MARCOS REPETITION OF CHARGES IS ACCEPTED
HERE AND ABROAD, LINKING CONSERVATIVE GROUPS TO
TERRORIST AND COMMUNIST ELEMENTS, HE WOULD FIND IT
EASIER TO MOVE AGAINST WHAT REMAINS OF THE POLITICAL
OPPOSITION HERE WHEN AND IF HE CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY.

6. FROM US STANDPOINT, NAMING OF ADEVOSO AS KEY FIGURE
IN ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLOTS IS OF SOME INTEREST.
ADEVOSO IS CERTAINLY NO FRIEND OF LEFTISTS, AND HIS
WELL- KNOWN FRIENDSHIP FOR US GOES BACK MANY YEARS
TO DAYS WHEN HE WAS A PRINCIPAL ANTI- JAPANESE
GUERRILLA LEADER. ALSO, REFERENCE TO ALLEGED PLOT
LEADERS ABROAD PRESUMABLY INCLUDES SEVERAL NOW IN US.

7. IN GENERAL, MARCOS INTERVIEW APPEARS TYPICAL
THROWING TOGETHER OF SEVERAL, PERHAPS UNRELATED, AND
OFTEN UNSUBSTANTIATED, ITEMS TO PRODUCE AN EFFECT
WHICH WILL SERVE HIS POLITICAL PURPOSES. WHAT THESE
MAY BE IS UNCLEAR AND THEY MAY AMOUNT TO NO MORE
THAN WARNING TO ELEMENTS OF FORMER OPPOSITION NOT TO
ENTERTAIN FUTILE HOPES OF UPSETTING PRESENT REGIME.
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